MFN status to Pakistan

2012. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has been enjoying MFN status in India without reciprocating the same;

(b) when the MFN status was granted to Pakistan;

(c) whether Pakistan has granted the same status to India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) In accordance with the Simla Agreement of 1972, a Protocol on Resumption of Trade was signed by India and Pakistan on 23.1.1975 which provided that the trade would be on MFN basis as provided for in GATT. India has accorded MFN status to Pakistan in comformity with its general approach. Contrary to its obligations, including under the WTO, Pakistan has not yet extended MFN treatment to India and has, *inter-alia*, cited extraneous security, political and economic reasons for this. Government has drawn attention to Pakistan's obligation to grant MFN status to India, and for this step to serve as indicator of Pakistan's intention to have normal trade and economic relations if it is to be seen to be committed to improving bilateral and regional economic cooperation.

SAARC Foreign Secretaries' meet

2013. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any talks between India and Pakistan during recent SAARC Foreign Secretaries' meet;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what was the outcome of the meet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.